IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for synchronizing interleavers in an OFDM communication system, wherein a guard period separates any two adjacent symbols, said method comprising the steps of:

monitoring each received frame for a predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern;

entering a synchronization state upon detecting said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern;

continuously monitoring each received frame for said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern at periodic frame intervals; and

returning to said monitoring step if said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern is not detected at said periodic frame interval for a predefined number of blocks.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a ~~said~~ predefined synchronization condition is the detection of a predefined cyclic prefix pattern

3. (Currently Amended) A method for synchronizing interleavers in an OFDM communication system, wherein a guard period separates any two adjacent symbols, said method comprising the steps of:

monitoring each received frame for a predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern;

entering a synchronization state upon detecting said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern;

continuously monitoring each received frame for said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern at periodic frame intervals; and

returning to said monitoring step if said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern is detected at an unexpected location for a predefined number of blocks

4 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein a ~~said~~ predefined synchronization condition is the detection of a predefined cyclic prefix pattern.

5 (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ An apparatus for synchronizing interleavers in an OFDM communication system, wherein a guard period separates any two adjacent symbols, said apparatus comprising ~~method comprising the steps of~~:

means for monitoring each received frame for a predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern;

means for entering a synchronization state upon detecting said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern;

means for continuously monitoring each received frame for said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern at periodic frame intervals; and

means for returning to said monitoring step if said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern is not detected at said periodic frame interval for a predefined number of blocks.

6 (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ An apparatus for synchronizing interleavers in an OFDM communication system, wherein a guard period separates any two adjacent symbols, said apparatus comprising ~~method comprising the steps of~~:

means for monitoring each received frame for a predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern;

means for entering a synchronization state upon detecting said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern;

means for continuously monitoring each received frame for said predefined

interleaver synchronizing pattern at periodic frame intervals; and

means for returning to said monitoring step if said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern is detected at an unexpected location for a predefined number of blocks